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Transportation and Communications Committee

November 4, 2004

***Action Minutes***

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**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.**

The Transportation and Communications Committee held its meeting at SCAG Offices downtown Los Angeles. The meeting was called to order by Lee Ann Garcia, Chair, City of Grand Terrace. There was a quorum.

**Members Present**

Adams, Steve	City of Riverside
Aldinger, Jim	City of Manhattan Beach
Baldwin, Harry ( <b>Vice Chair</b> )	City of San Gabriel
Bone, Lou	City of Tustin
Burke, Yvonne	City of Los Angeles
Dale, Lawrence	City of Barstow
Daniels, Gene	City of Paramount
Dixon, Richard	City of Lake Forrest
Flickinger, Bonnie	City of Moreno Valley
Garcia, Lee Ann ( <b>Chair</b> )	City of Grand Terrace
Gurule, Frank	City of Cudahy
Herrera, Carol	SGVCOG
Lowe, Robin	City of Hemet/RCTC
Lowenthal, Bonnie	City of Long Beach
Miller, Llewellyn	City of Claremont
O'Connor, Pam	City of Santa Monica
Pettis, Greg	Cathedral City
Proo, Bea	City of Pico Rivera
Ridgeway, Tod	City of Newport Beach
Smith, Charles	OCTA
Smith, Greg	City of Los Angeles
Spence, David	Arroyo Verdugo COG
Stanford, Dick	City of Azusa
Szerlip, Don	South Bay Cities
Uranga, Tonia Reyes	City of Long Beach

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**Members Not Present**

Becerra, Glen	City of Simi Valley
Baine, Paul	San Bernardino County
Brown, Art	City of Buena Park
Buckley, Tom	City of Lake Elsinore
Cole, George	Gateway Cities
Davis, Bill	City of Simi Valley
DeLara, Juan	City of Coachella
De Young, Cathryn	City of Laguna Niguel
Dunlap, Judy	City of Inglewood
Fasana, John	City of Duarte
George, Gary	City of Redlands
Hall, Isadore	City of Compton
Hernandez, Robert	City of Anaheim
Herzog, Peter	OCOG
Keenan, Tim	City of Cypress
Marshall, Patsy	City of Buena Park
Mikels, Judy	Ventura County
Millhouse, Keith	City of Moorpark
Nuaimi, Mark	City of Fontana
Ovitt, Gary	City of Ontario
Roberts, Ron	City of Temecula
Rutherford, Mark	City of Westlake Village
Smyth, Cameron	City of Santa Clarita
Sykes, Tom	City of Walnut
Talbot, Paul	City of Alhambra
Tyler, Sidney	City of Pasadena

**New Members**

None

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**1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE**

Hon. Lee Ann Garcia, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Congratulations were extended to the following individuals on their re-election:

Bonnie Flickinger	Moreno Valley
Lou Bone	Tustin

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no public comments.

**3.0 REVIEW and PRIORITIZE**

No changes requested.

**4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

**4.1 Approval Item**

**4.1.1 Action Minutes of October 7, 2004**

It was noted and corrected that Richard Dixon, Lake Forest, was present at the October 7, 2004 meeting.

**4.2 Receive and File**

**4.2.1 SCAG Legislative Matrix**

**4.2.2 Intergovernmental Review (IGR)**

MOTION was made to approve the consent calendar items, SECONDED, and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**5.0 ACTION ITEMS**

There were no Action Items at this time.

**6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

**6.1 Ontario International Airport Ground Access Plan**

Mr. Viggen Davidian, SCAG Consultant, Meyer, Mohaddess Associates, briefed the Committee on the current status of the Ground Access Study (GAP). As part of the Regional Transportation Plan update process, SCAG is required to develop a regional ground access improvement program for the airport system. Accordingly, SCAG has initiated a ground access study for the Ontario International Airport,

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working closely with the City of Ontario, San Bernardino Associated Governments, Caltrans, and Los Angeles World Airports.

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- identify and quantify existing and future ground access deficiencies;
- develop and evaluate comprehensive alternative improvement strategies,
- prioritize these alternative strategies; and,
- coordinate the actions of local, regional and state governments in developing a comprehensive implementation program for the recommended Ground Access Plan.

Next steps include:

- identification and evaluation of additional improvement strategies
- development of project cost estimates and feasibility
- analysis and selection of improvements
- development of prioritization and implementation plan

## **6.2 State and Federal End of Session Update**

Don Rhodes, SCAG staff, presented an update on transportation legislation currently pending before the State and Federal Legislature.

### **State Budget**

At the time of the release of the Governor's FY 2004-05 budget proposal in January, the budget deficit totaled \$15 billion. Following the May Revision and weeks of negotiations, the Governor and legislative leadership agreed to a budget containing \$16.1 billion in combined two-year solutions, including loans and borrowing, fund shifts, and program savings among others.

A component of the budget was a \$1.3 billion annual diversion of local property tax revenues to the General Fund in both FY 2004-05 and FY 2005-06 in exchange for limits on future state diversions of local funds. Transportation funds were also used to close the budget gap. The budget suspends Proposition 42, shifting \$1.2 billion from the Transportation Investment Fund to the General Fund. Repayment is due by June 30, 2008. In the meantime, bonds backed by tribal gaming revenues will be used to repay \$183 million to the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund and \$1.2 billion in transportation loans due in FY 2005-06. The passage of either Proposition 68 or 70 on November 2<sup>nd</sup> will void the compact, however, and no bonds will be issued, making the source of repayment funds unclear.

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State Bills of Interest

In the TCC, the reauthorization of TEA-21 and state transportation funding were of primary concern. Constitutional amendments ACA 24 (Dutra) and ACA 29 (Harman), regarding Proposition 42 protections, did not advance, but AB 2628 (Pavley), authorizing the use of HOV lanes by certain hybrid vehicles, was enacted and signed by the Governor. SCAG opposed AB 2628.

Federal Update

Don Rhodes introduced John O'Donnell, SCAG Federal Lobbyist, C2. Mr. O'Donnell gave a brief update on the status of a couple of items in Washington. He pointed out that with the Republican's strengthening their hold in the Senate and in the House and with the President in his last term, we are going to see more concentration on international affairs and more attention to the deficit issue. How this will impact what SCAG is doing? There is going to be a struggle in the reauthorization process over the amount of money that is going to be available for infrastructure spending on transportation projects.

Appropriations

Don Rhodes, SCAG staff, continued his update. He went on to say that both houses of Congress approved a stopgap spending measure to fund all federal programs through the first seven weeks of the 2005 fiscal year. The "Continuing Resolution" (CR) allows Congress to recess before the November 2, 2004 election only to return for a post-election lame-duck session starting November 15, 2004. The CR extends funding levels based on FY 2004 terms and conditions, and spending rates. As it currently stands, the Transportation-Treasury bill will more than likely become a part of an omnibus bill for FY 2005 spending.

New Starts rail projects that have Full Funding Grant Agreements (FFGA) or that are expected to sign an FFGA within the next six months were the only earmarks. Of the projects listed in the SCAG Six County Appropriations Request list for FY 2005, the only project that received an earmark was the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Eastside Light Rail Transit Project for \$60 million. This is because no highway projects were earmarked. It was understood that highway earmarks were to be dealt with at a later time.

Reauthorization of TEA-21

Faced with the prospect of losing some \$1.8 billion in fiscal year 2004 obligation authority as the fiscal year ended, and unable to reach agreement on a multi-year reauthorization, Congress approved a sixth temporary extension (HR 5183) of TEA-21, to maintain federal transportation programs through May 31, 2005.

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**6.3 Statewide Transportation Performance Measures**

Naresh Amatya, SCAG staff, presented this item. He indicated that under the direction of California Business, Transportation and Housing Secretary, Sunne McPeak, Caltrans is in the process of developing statewide transportation system performance measures that are designed to help influence policies, practices and decision making of transportation agencies as well as individual system users.

The first phase of this effort primarily consisted of establishing and identifying key performance outcomes/measures, potential data sources, responsible parties, and potential time frame for their implementation. Nine performance measures, which are consistent with SCAG's measures, were identified through this process. They are: 1) Mobility/Reliability/Accessibility; 2) Productivity; 3) System Preservation; 4) Safety; 5) Environmental Quality; 6) Coordinated Transportation and Land Use; 7) Economic Development; 8) Return on Investment; 9) Equity.

The second phase of this effort, which was kicked-off on September 16, 2004, involves developing an implementation or an action plan for the utilization of performance measures on a statewide basis. The goal is to develop a prototype system performance report by January 2005 for the first six performance measures. From this prototype performance report, development will be utilized in further refining and establishing statewide performance measures over the next twelve months.

**6.4 Draft 2005 State and Federal Legislative Program**

Don Rhodes, SCAG staff, provided a report on the Regional Council's adoption of a state and federal legislative program that guides the legislative activities of SCAG in the coming year. The 2005 Legislative Program was created with the input of SCAG's Planning and Policy staff and in consultation with the regional county transportation commissions, state and national planning partners, and SCAG's state and federal lobbyists.

Continuing the work of last year, SCAG's federal priority in 2005 will be the reauthorization of TEA-21, which has been extended to May 31, 2005. SCAG's advocacy efforts will again focus on enhancing Southern California's funding opportunities in the next transportation program.

**7.0 MAGLEV TASK FORCE REPORT**

Maglev Chair, Robin Lowe, reported that the task force did go through the overall report on the LAX South High Speed Ground Access Study. The task force opened all the alignment options, 1-4, for further consideration during Phase II which will not deal with any expansion of Los Angeles. There was action taken by the City of Los Angeles and the task force will discuss that as it pertains to this access route at its next meeting. The

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committee did go over the MOU for the initial operating segment with the City of Ontario, Los Angeles, SANBAG. The MOU specifically deals with preliminary engineering and the City of Los Angeles has requested an alternative analysis. The committee has received and signed FRA grants and those will begin as soon as we have participation signed from Lockheed-Martin. The next meeting is scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup>.

**8.0 CHAIR REPORT**

No report at this time.

**9.0 STAFF REPORT**

Rich Macias, SCAG Transportation Manager, stated that earlier today Heather Copp spoke to the committee about the OWP and how that process has proceeded. In this years OWP, SCAG staff is tasked with developing the plan for the 2007 Regional Transportation Plan. Staff has commenced drafting the implementation plan, in a recent informal discussion with many of the sub-regions it was explained to them what SCAG was planning to do. It was well received. Earlier this week Mr. Macias presented the proposed plan to Mark Pisano and the Directors here at SCAG. Their comments were received and staff is addressing their comments on the plan. Staff will finalize the comments and the plan will be brought forward to the committee most likely in February 2005.

**10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None at this time.

**11.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Richard Dixon, Lake Forrest, stated that because the Goods Movement Committee is a sub-committee of the TCC, he announced that Harry Baldwin, Bev Perry, and himself attend the UCLA Arrowhead conference which was focused on Goods Movement. It was an outstanding conference but one of the things that was pointed out was the lack of participation in this issue by elected officials. There are very few elected officials who attend the committee, but it is heavily attended by the private sector. Mr. Dixon encouraged all those individuals who represent communities or districts along the 710, the 60, all the major corridors, etc., that they need to start showing up at the Goods Movement meeting because that is where the preliminary discussions are held with regards to rail and trucking.

Harry Baldwin, San Gabriel, announced that on November 5th the Alameda Corridor East Construction Authority would be having a groundbreaking ceremony/luncheon of the Third Grade Separation at the Ramona crossing in El Monte.

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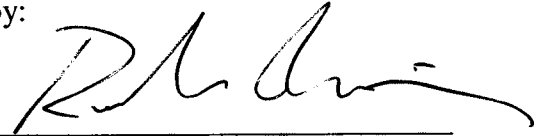
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**12.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Garcia adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

The next committee meeting will be held on December 2, 2004,  
at the SCAG Office.

Action Minutes Approved  
by:



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Rich Macias, Manager  
Transportation Planning &  
Programming